Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08691 101257Z

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ACTION SS-30

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R 101205Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4761
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

SECRETTEHRAN 8691

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IR, RO

SUBJ: IRANIAN INTEREST IN ROMANIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

1. PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA ASKED ME ON DECEMBER 10 WHETHER PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND HIS POLICIES WERE IN TROUBLE. HIS INQUIRY DERIVED FROM A MESSAGE HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS BROTHER, IRANIAN AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS, INDICATING THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR THERE HAD TOLD HIM THAT CEAUSESCU'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES WAS CUT SHORT BECAUSE THERE WAS A CLOSE VOTE IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CEAUSESCU AND HIS WIFE HAD TO RETURN TO CAST THEIR TWO VOTES. IN ADDITION, HOVEYDA CLAIMS THAT WHEN MAURER WAS IN TEHRAN A FEW WEEKS AGO, HE TOLD HOVEYDABETHAT HE BASICALLY DISAGREED WITH CEAUSESCU'S POLICIES AND THAT HE WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RESIGNING OR RETIRING IN ORDER TO DO SOME WRITING ON THE ROMANIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. HIS VIEWS TO BE PUBLISHED AFTER HIS DEATH. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT MAURER'S DISAGREEMENT WITH CEAUSESCU WENT DEEPER THAN SIMPLE DISAPPROVAL OF EFFORTS TO MAKE ROMANIA AS INDEPENDENT OF THE SOVIET UNION AS POSSIBLE. HELMS

SECRET

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